

[26 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Engine for LCA

4434. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LCA has been designed around the GE-404 engine as the indigenous GTX engine is still under development and its final clearance is uncertain; and

(b) if so, what is the actual position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The indigenous Kaveri engine is the designated power plant for the LCA. GE-404 engine is an interim option to test the LCA airframe with a proven engine.

(b) Does not arise.

US objection on Falcon Airborne Radar System

4435. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Israel has put on hold its negotiations to sell the Falcon Airborne Radar Systems due to objection from the US Government who fears that it would lead to an escalation of tension in the area; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Chief of Defence Staff

4436. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to

appoint a Chief of Defence Staff exercising an overall supervision and control over the three Chiefs of Staff of Army, Navy and Air Force;

(b) if so, the reasons for creation of the new post and what would be his status and functions; and

(c) whether the incumbent to the new post would be selected from the three Chiefs of the Defence Services by rotation and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation. The GoM has *inter alia* recommended creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This would amongst others facilitate better utilization of the national resources through establishment of requisite jointness amongst the Armed Forces, ensure *inter-se* and *intra-se* prioritization of the equipment related requirements of the Services and also facilitate single point military advice being made available to the Government. As per recommendations of the GoM, the CDS will be a 4-star officer drawn from one of the three Services and shall function as the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The recommendations of the GoM have been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001. After examination and acceptance of the Report by the Government, action as required will be taken expeditiously.

Detection of Spy Aircrafts

4437. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: WiU the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US spy aircraft has been detected in China;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that similar spy aircrafts fly over India and not a single spy aircraft has been detected;